UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare
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SOCIAL SECURITY FOR FARM PEOPLE

A List of References

Selected by Josiah C. Folsom 1/

This list of references is intended to guide enquirers to publications relating to Social Security in its possible future application to Agriculture. Statements within the past year by President Roosevelt, and by the Social Security Board; the introduction into Congress of bills 2/ proposing the expansion of present Social Security measures, and of their extension to farm and other workers not now covered, have brought the subject to the front. Most available literature refers to Social Security as applied to nonfarm wage workers. Only recently has it been actively proposed to apply these measures to others and to the self-employed. Little has been written concerning bringing farm workers under the Social Security laws. Practically nothing has appeared in the popular and farm press. Consequently this list is short, and includes some items which users may have difficulty obtaining.

Periodical indices in local libraries should be consulted occasionally for additional references to the subject.

A few citations to the Marsh report in Canada and the Beveridge report in England are appended. Both countries are considering extension of their social insurance systems as essential measures in post-war economy.

1/ Acknowledgement is made of the assistance of members of the Social Security Board.
2/ S.1161 and H.R. 2861, 78th Congress, 1st Session.

NOTE: Library call numbers are those of publications on file in the Library, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

1. Altmeyer, Arthur J. The farm family and the Social Security Act. Social Security Board. 10 pp., processed. [Washington, D. C. 1937] 173.2 SolFa.
While somewhat out of date now, this paper states clearly the intended contributions of the Social Security Act to the health and well-being of farm people. They relate particularly to maternal and child welfare, to vocational rehabilitation, and to public assistance for the needy aged, needy blind, and dependent children.

2. Altmeyer, Arthur J. Social insurance proposals; 1941. American Labor Legislation Review 31(2): 59-63. June 1941.
Changing the present social security program to overcome some apparent deficiencies is proposed. A well-rounded program should include agricultural labor, self-employed farmers, and other groups now excluded. It should insure against ill-health and disability as well as unemployment, old age, and death. The article is from the employee standpoint.

3. Altmeyer, Arthur J. Social security in relation to agriculture and rural areas. Social Security Bulletin. 3(7): 3-15. July 1940. 173.2 SolSoc.
The efforts to extend social security coverage to agriculture are outlined. At present farm workers can get no benefits except as needy persons. Migratory farm labor is at a great disadvantage now in its usual inability to establish a residence and to qualify in that respect for aid needed.

4. Altmeyer, Arthur J. Trends in the development of social programs in the United States. National Conference of Social Work. Proceedings 1941: 105-114. New York, Columbia University Press, 1941. 280.9 N213 68th 1941.
The evolution of the social security programs in this country is sketched. Experience under the present social security act indicates the need of extension of social security coverage beyond old-age and survivors insurance, and unemployment compensation to cover sickness, disability and death. Increased unification of services is also desirable.

5. Altmeyer, Arthur J. Undermining unemployment insurance. Survey Graphic 33(1): 13-15. January 1944. 280.8 C37G
The chairman of the Social Security Board tells how the unemployment insurance payments are being cut down by competition among the states to do so, and the part that experience rating plays. Other shortcomings of the present law, particularly requirements for and the inadequacy of insurance benefits are discussed.

6. American Association for Social Security. Social security in wartime and after. viii & 47 pp. New York. 1942. 284.6 Am3
Nearly 70 students of social security collectively recommend that, among other things, coverage of the old-age and survivors insurance program be extended to farm people and others now excluded as part of a sound and well-integrated program of social security.

7. American Council on Public Affairs. War and post-war social security. 89 pp. Washington, D. C., 1942. 234.6 Am32
Authorities on social insurance contribute articles. There are references to the coverage of rural and agricultural workers. See especially the following: a. Cohen, Wilbur J. Next steps and future goals. pp. 31-42. The requirements of a complete social insurance system are outlined, and suggestions are made for changes in the present program. The administrative reasons for excluding certain groups have now passed.
b. Corson, John J. Old-age and survivors insurance program. pp. 53-67. Similar to his "Developments in the old-age and survivors insurance program", noted above.

8. _____. A bill to extend social insurance in the United States. International Labour Review 48(2): 247-50. August 1943. 233.3 In8
The proposals made in S.1161, introduced by Senators Wagner and Murray, 78th Congress, 1st Session, June 3, 1943 are outlined. Attention is called to the increased coverage proposed to include agricultural labor and the self-employed (including farm operators), and to proposed new services.
Note. The comments apply also to H.R. 2861, introduced by Mr. Dingell on the same day.

9. Beatty, Jerome. Will you get your share of social security? American Magazine 137(2): 43, 105-6, 109. February 1944. 110 Am.
The operations of the Social Security accounting system are sketched, and its efforts for complete accounting and accuracy are stressed. The conditions for qualifying for social security benefits are outlined; the Board desires to give applicants the benefit in case of doubt. Future probably increased demands for benefit payments make advisable the accumulation of larger reserves by scheduled increases of taxes now collected for the purpose. The board recommends extension of the coverage of the Act to include groups not now covered; these include farm workers. The proposals also include expansion of services and benefits, including medical care, and disability benefits.

10. Blaisdell, T. C., Jr. Old-age insurance for agricultural workers in western Europe. Social Security Bulletin 1(6): 19-23, June 1938. 173.2 SolSoc.
The administrative experience of 5 countries (Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, and Sweden) with their old-age insurance programs protecting agricultural workers is examined for possible guidance in formulating plans in the United States.

11. Clague, Ewan. Needed changes in Federal and State unemployment compensation legislation. National Conference of Social Work. Proceedings 1941: 522-533. New York, Columbia University Press, 1941. 280.9 N213 68th 1941.
The bases of unemployment compensation legislation are outlined. But in the passing and administration of State laws there has been lack of uniformity as to benefits, qualifications, calculation methods, rights, and reserves. Minimum federal standards should be set, minimum state fund reserves maintained, and some form of equalising financial income of the program among States accepted.

12. Corson, John J. Agricultural workers and social security. Journal of Farm Economics 24(1): 285-295. February 1942. 280.8 J822.
The position of hired farm laborers and of farm operators under the social security program is outlined. Administrative difficulties of covering them were once assumed to be large, but experience has indicated their solutions. The attitude of farm operators to coverage is described. The present participation of agricultural workers in social security is appraised. Also are discussed the effect of the present war on agricultural coverage, the kinds of protection farm people can afford, and the desireability of voluntary coverage.

13. Corson, John J. Developments in the old-age and survivors insurance program. National Conference of Social Work. Proceedings 1941: 533-540. New York, Columbia University Press, 1941. 280.9 N213 68th 1941.
The experience of the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance of the Social Security Board since the passing of the Social Security Act in 1935 is sketched. Two great inadequacies of the present program are stated to be limited coverage and absence of disability insurance. Coverage of additional classes of the working population, including farm laborers and the self-employed is recommended.

14. Corson, John J. How do the aged "get along"? Survey Graphic 33(1): 16-17, 30-31. January 1944. 280.8 G370

A study of how 3,600 workers in 7 cities have supported themselves since their retirement or discharge because of age shows that old-age insurance only partly meets their needs. In almost half of cases the insurance benefits were too small to meet their reasonable needs, even when supplemented by meager resources.

15. Corson, John J. Multiple pensions or wider coverage. American Labor Legislation Review 31(1): 30-37. March 1941.
From the employee standpoint the principal shortcomings of the present Social Security Law are outlined, - with particular attention to unprotected occupational groups and uncovered risks. The reasons for the exclusions are given. The advantages of coverage farm people and other excluded groups are noted.

16. Corson, John J. The next steps in providing security. The Controller 9(5); 176-178, 185. May 1941.
The operations of the Social Security Act are described. A course of action is suggested to extend protection to the population not now covered.

17. _____. Extending the social security program. Social Security Bulletin 6(3): 5-10. March 1943. 173.2 SolSoc
This excerpt from the 7th Annual Report of the Social Security Board for the fiscal year 1941-2, pp. 13-23, states that experience with the present social security system and prospective post-war needs point to the desirability of extension and modification of the present program in various ways. Extension of coverage to agricultural labor and the self-employed is considered of paramount importance to the objectives of social security.

18. Falk, I. S. Security against sickness: a study of health insurance. xii and 423 pp. Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., 1936. 284.6 F18.
The need for group payment of sickness costs in this country, foreign (British, French, Danish, and German) experience with health insurance, and the basis of an American program for such insurance are discussed. Adequate medical care for all the population and adequate renumeration for those furnishing it, are essential to the national welfare. The costs of sickness should be distributed among groups of the population over time periods on insurance principles. State or federal action may be necessary to accomplish this adequately. References.

19. Folsum, Josiah C. The discharged worker looks to the farm. United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics Agricultural Situation 22(12): 11-12. December 1938. 1Ec7Ag.
The extent of interchange of labor between agriculture and industry is indicated by the fact that 39 percent of laborers interviewed in the North Dakota small grain harvest in 1938 had social security account numbers.

20. Hady, Frank T., and Johnson, Sherman E. The farmer at 65. United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics Land Policy Review 4(3): 18-21. March 1941. 1Ec7La.
Aged farmers are divided into two classes: Those with sufficient means to retire, and those who have been unable to accumulate savings. The needs of the latter group are only partially met by old-age assistance which bears the stigma of charity. It is proposed that the Farm Security Administration facilitate the retirement of the wealthier farmers by purchasing their farms and reselling to young farmers.

21. Hopkins, William Stephen. Social insurance and agriculture: A memorandum presenting suggestions for research and a bibliography. Social Science Research Council. Pamphlet Series 5, v and 93 pp., processed. Washington, D. C. [1940] 284.69 Sol
The pamphlet presents suggestions for research relating to aspects of the possible extension of social security measures to agricultural workers, principally hired laborers. The appended bibliography is extensive.

22. Murray, Merril G. Can we insure domestic and farm workers? American Labor Legislation Review 30 (4): 159-163. December 1940.
Administrative consideration involved in covering these groups are discussed. The possibilities of the use of a stamp book plan to facilitate collecting contributions are outlined.

23. Paca, Michael. What's ahead in social security? Predictions of Things to Come 1(2): 31-37. February - March 1943.
"Will its benefits be extended to include the so-called 'forgotten' groups, such as domestic workers, farm hands, employees of church and educational organizations? What other new protections will be provided?"
It is predicted that desireable changes will be made soon in the social security program; among them will be the extension of old-age survivors insurance to farm people, and disability and health insurance for all.

24. Safier, Fred; Quinn, Walter; and Fitzgerald, Eward J. The agricultural wage worker in employment covered by Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Social Security Bulletin 4(7): 11-14. July 1941. 173.2 SolSoc.
This analayzes the movement of laborers between covered and agricultural (not covered) employment, and the status of such workers under the Social Security law. Large numbers work at times in covered employment. They are required to pay the prescribed contributions from wages, but the majority of them do not acquire insured status. Of every 100 who had made these payments, not over one in 6 had gained insured status, and this might later be lost. The report is based on surveys in 1940 in New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky and Michigan.

25. Safier, Fred; Useen, John; and Quinn, Walter. Farmers and farm laborers in employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance. Social Security Bulletin 6(7): 18-24. June 1943. 173.2 SolSoc.
From the results of a survey in Iowa and Arkansas in 1941 data are presented concerning the economic security of farm people and the extent of their present participation under the social security program. Not over one-fifth of those with wage credits gained in covered employment have acquired insured status. Wartime opportunities for covered industrial employment will increase the numbers of farm workers who will have made social insurance contributions with little practical benefit to themselves.

26. Schaupp, Karl L. Medical care experience of the Farm Security Administration in California. National Conference of Social Work. Proceedings 1941: 494-501. New York, Columbia University Press, 1941. 280.9 N213 68th 1941.
The desperate need of migratory farm laborers for medical assistance, and the dangers of their spreading contagious diseases led to the formation of the Agricultural Workers Health and Medical Association by the Farm Security Administration and the California Medical Association. Its operations and successes are outlined. They point to eventual solution of medical care problems of low income groups.

27. United States Congress. Senate. Committee on Education and Labor. Violations of free speech and rights of labor. Hearings before a subcommittee, 76th Congress, 3rd Session, pursuant to S.Res. 266 (74th Congress); a resolution to investigate violations of the right of free speech and assembly and interference with the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively. Supplementary Hearings. National farm labor problem. Part 3. pp. 871-899, and 984-985. Washington, D. C., U. S. Government Printing Office 1941. 283 Un 312 V Suppl. pt. 3.
Testimony of Dr. Arthur J. Altmeyer, Chairman, Social Security Board, deals with social security in relation to agriculture. Old-age insurance; unemployment insurance; public assistance to the needy aged, blind, and dependent children; rural health services and needs are among topics discussed.
The second reference (pp. 984-995) describes old-age insurance in agriculture in France, Germany, and Great Britain, and exemption of farm labor under state unemployment compensation laws.

28. United States Department of Agriculture. Farm Security administration. Group medical for farmers. FSA-Pub. 75, 14 pp. Washington, D. C. 1941. 1.5 G91
Since early in 1936, the group medical care programs organized by low income Farm Security borrowers has developed into the largest voluntary group medical care programs in the world. The need of these people for medical care is shown, the operation of the program is outlined. Medical aid for migratory agricultural laborers is furnished on a partial payment plan. The results of the entire health program are sketched.

29. United States Social Security Board. Annual report. Washington, D. C. 173.2 SolAn
The first of the reports was issued in 1937 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1936. They contain reports of the activities of the Board, including recommendations. Of late years some of these deal with extension of the Social Security system to agricultural workers.

30. United States Social Security Board. Brief summary of the principal amendments to the Social Security Act incorporated in the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bills (S. 1161 and H.R. 2861.) 3 pp., processed. [Washington, D. C., 1943] Mimeographed. Principal changes are listed and explained.

31. United States Social Security Board. Information on changes in and expansion of the Social Security programs recommended by the Social Security Board. Washington, D. C., 1943. 39 pp., processed.
Among other proposals for extension of social insurance it gives reasons why farm people should be included; a brief description of a stamp-book plan for collecting contributions on behalf of employee accounts is included.

32. United States Social Security Board. Social security yearbook. Washington, D. C. 173.2 SolSoy
This annual, first issued in August 1940 for the calendar year 1939 contains articles, data, and references relating to the operation of the Social Security Act, and lists publications of the Board. There are occasional references to agricultural labor coverage.

33. Wagner, Robert Ferdinand. Health insurance for the American people. 1/ Congressional Record, November 3, 1943 148.2 R24
Propaganda arguments against the health insurance matters proposed by the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bills (S. 1161 and H.R. 2861) are noted. The purposes, plans of operation, and financing of the proposed medical and hospitalization measures are outlined. Financial contributions to facilitate medical research are proposed. The plan is to bring patient and physician closer together with the free initiative of present medical practice at the lowest possible cost, and to pay the bills by a cooperative nation-wide insurance system.

1/ This is the title of a reprint distributed by Senator Wagner.

34. Wagner, Robert Ferdinand. Pay-as-you-earn now for post-war social security. 1/ Congressional Record, June 3, 1943 148.2 R24
The Senator gives a brief summary of the reasons for the changes in the Social Security Act proposed in S. 1161 and H.R. 2861 (the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bills introduced into Congress on June 3, 1943.) Some economic and social advantages of immediate action are given; principal changes and their need are outlined section by section. This plan is compared briefly to that proposed for Great Britain by Sir William H. Beveridge. Tables dealing with financing and benefits and with provisions of state unemployment compensation laws are appended. 2/

35. Wagner, Robert Ferdinand. Social Security lifts its sights. Survey Graphic 32(7): 283-4, 301-2, July 1943. 280.8 C37G
The aims of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bills (S. 1161 and H. R. 2861, 78th Congress, 1st session) are outlined by one of the authors. The bill plans for a unified, contributory social insurance system, and a unified public assistance program to meet the needs of destitute millions too poor to take part in insurance plans. It would broaden the coverage of the present American social security act to include farm operators in most of its services, and hired farm laborers in all.

Periodical

36. Social Security Bulletin. Monthly. Issued by Social Security Board, Washington, D. C. 173.2 SolSoc.
Contains current general reports of the activities of the Social Security Board and of State agencies carrying out functions under the Social Security Act, and articles relating to phases of Social Security. A few of the articles have considered the possible extension of the Social Security Act to agricultural workers, and the expansion of the system.

Canada and Great Britain

37. Beveridge, Sir William Henry. Social insurance and allied services. 299 pp. New York. The Macmillian company, 1942. 284.6 B46
This contains the full "Beveridge report" originating from the work of the Interdepartmental Committee on Social Insurance and Allied Services. The committee had been instructed to make, with special reference to the inter-relation of the schemes, a survey of the existing national schemes of social insurance and their allied services, including workmen's compensation, and to make recommendations. The aim of the plan submitted is assurance against unnecessary want under any circumstances.

1/ This the title of a reprint distributed by Senator Wagner.
2/ The reprint does not contain the tables.

38. Marsh, Leonard C. Report on social security for Canada: The requirements for post-war planning. Report for the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction, presented to the Special Committee on Social Security, March 16, 1943, by Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, Minister of Pensions and National Health, 1943, House of Commons. Ottowa, Kings Printer. 1943. 284.6 C16

The report proposes an expanded social security system for Canada, and health insurance legislation.

39. The Marsh Plan: A blueprint for social security in Canada. Canadian Business 16(5): 31-4. May 1943. 287 C162

The proposals of the recent Marsh report are outlined. The include continuation or strengthening of present unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, workmen's compensation; introduction of health insurance, children's allowances, public works to bridge the economic gap between war and peace, disability payments, funeral grants, survivors' pensions, sickness benefits.

40. Social security planning in Canada. International Labour Review 47(5): 591-616. 283.3 In8

Brief analysis is given of Dr. L. C. Marsh's report on social security for Canada, and proposed health insurance legislation. The Marsh report cites the main features of the existing social security statutes, ways, means, and objectives of proposed extensions of coverage and service, and the principles necessary for most effective accomplishment of fruitful extension of the systems.

Two additional reports make proposals for health insurance on a universal insurance basis, and for improvements in preventive and other health services.

NOTE: See also item 27.